



MARION COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TERRY R. CURRY, PROSECUTOR

251 E. OHIO ST., SUITE 160

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

PHONE (317) 327-3522 • FAX (317) 327-3531

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Contacts:

Peg McLeish (317) 327-5543; peg.mcleish@indy.gov

A.J. Deer (317) 327-5493; anthony.deer@indy.gov

Indianapolis woman charged for multi-county identity theft and check counterfeiting scheme

Kacey Rucker charged for defrauding more than 20 victims

(Indianapolis, Ind.) Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced today that criminal charges have been filed against Kacey Rucker for the theft and use of stolen credit and debit cards and the forgery and counterfeiting of checks using stolen checks and personal identification of more than 20 victims. Many of the thefts are believed to have occurred when wallets were taken by Rucker from employees while they worked at a variety of businesses in Indianapolis, Greenwood, Avon and Kokomo. Rucker has been charged with one count of Corrupt Business Influence (Level 5 Felony), four counts of Forgery (Level 6 Felony), two counts of Counterfeiting (Level 6 Felony) and 38 counts of Theft (Class A Misdemeanor). The charges are a result of an investigation by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Organized Crime Unit.

According to the probable cause affidavit, Rucker allegedly used credit cards and other personal information stolen from victims to make purchases, open fraudulent credit accounts and counterfeit checks. Multiple victims reported similar scenarios of theft from their places of employment. In those instances, Rucker is identified as one of two or three individuals who would allegedly enter the business, gain access to employee-only areas and steal employee wallets and other personal information.

"This is the second case in recent months where an individual is accused of stealing wallets from employees while at work. In most of these scenarios, the victims were not aware of the theft until they received a bank alert of suspicious purchases," Prosecutor Terry Curry said. "For several victims, sensitive documents such as birth certificates and social security cards were taken with their wallets, which is believed to have contributed to Ms. Rucker's ability to commit identity theft. These personal documents are particularly valuable to an identity thief, which is why we always advise that they not be carried in a purse or wallet."

It is further alleged that after an interview with investigators, Rucker confessed to the crimes of counterfeiting, forgery, fraud and theft. Multiple pieces of evidence containing victims' personal information were recovered from Rucker's residence during the execution of search warrant, including BMV identifications, paystubs, and checkbooks.

An additional suspect, Monique Turnbow, has been charged separately for her role in the scheme and is currently scheduled for a pre-trial conference on July 21.

The Marion County Prosecutor's Office offers free audits for small businesses focused on deterring potential criminal behavior through physical design elements, such as lighting, parking lot safety, and securing employees' personal belongings. Fraud prevention seminars are also available at no cost to community groups, assisted living facilities and other

organizations. Contact MCPO@indy.gov for more information or to request a free security assessment by certified professionals.

Rucker is currently in the custody of the Indiana Department of Correction for an unrelated case. An initial hearing has not yet been scheduled in this new matter.

A charge of a crime is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.